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(54) Title: PROCESS FOR THE RACEMISATION OF ENANTIOMERICALLY ENRICHED ALPHA-AMINO NITRILES

(57) Abstract: Process for the racemisation of an enantiomerically enriched α -amino nitrile characterized in that the enantiomerically enriched α -amino nitrile is contacted with a lewis acid catalyst. Preferably an aprotic solvent is used. The lewis acid catalyst preferably comprises a metal chosen from main group elements IA-IVA of the Periodic Table (CAS version), the transition metals and the lanthanides, in particular Al, Ti, Zr, or lanthanides. The catalyst for example has the general structure $M_nX_pS_qL_r$, and preferably is chosen from the group of aluminum alkoxides, aluminum alkyls, lanthanide alkoxides and lanthanocenes. The racemisation may be performed in combination with a resolution process, for instance in combination with an enzymatic or a crystallization induced resolution process, preferably in situ, for instance in situ in a crystallization induced asymmetric transformation process.

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